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To: ["R7 Senior" <Staff>](#)
CC:
Date: 7/28/2014 12:45:28 PM
Subject: OPA Afternoon Clips - 7/28/14

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Air quality tested again at Bridgeton Landfill - 7/28/14 - The fifth round of air quality testing will begin Monday at the Bridgeton Landfill. The landfill has been smoldering for years, and this week 40 air monitors will gather information about what's going on in the air around the landfill. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/07/28/bridgeton-landfill-air-quality-testing/13260613/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Promises of easier nuclear construction fall short - 7/28/14 - The U.S. nuclear industry has started building its first new plants in decades using prefabricated Lego-like blocks meant to save time and money and revive the once promising energy source. http://www.stltoday.com/news/national/promises-of-easier-nuclear-construction-fall-short/article_2150572c-d475-5433-83ca-f04c8ba5d46e.html

Dubuque Telegraph Herald - Editorial: Branstad's nix of solar grant disappointing – 7/18/14 - Sometime this spring, Branstad's enthusiasm for solar energy wilted. The Branstad administration surrendered the \$1 million grant. What explanation did the governor give at the time for rejecting a million dollars to help achieve the goals he had been talking about for years? None. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/abetteriowa/2014/07/28/dubuque-telegraph-herald-branstads-nix-of-solar-grant-disappointing/13263263/>

Roll Call - 'Good Ideas' Are Point of EPA Carbon Emissions Hearings, McCarthy Says - 7/28/14 - "We expect good feedback from these sessions," EPA administrator Gina McCarthy told reporters Monday about this week's listening sessions on the agency's proposal to regulate carbon emissions from existing power plants. "No good ideas should be off the table." <http://blogs.rollcall.com/energy-xtra/epa-carbon-emissions-rule-hearings-mccarthy/>

Roll Call - FERC Pulled Into House GOP's Questions About EPA Rule - 7/28/14 - Republican concerns about the potential closure of coal power plants — and questions about the nation's electricity infrastructure — will be on display Tuesday as a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hears from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the EPA's proposal to regulate carbon emissions from existing power plants. <http://blogs.rollcall.com/energy-xtra/ferc-epa-house-hearing-coal-grid/>

The Hill - EPA heads into battle on climate - 7/28/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is heading into a battle with the coal industry next week over its landmark climate regulations. More than 300,000 comments already have been submitted to the EPA since it unveiled its proposal on June 2. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/213463-week-ahead-epa-heads-into-battle-on-climate-rule>

The Hill - Greens expect 'busloads' to support EPA climate rule at hearings - 7/28/14 - Environmental groups and their supporters are planning to come out in droves this week to public hearings to support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to limit power plant carbon pollution. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/213495-greens-expect-busloads-to-support-epa-climate-rule-at-hearings>

Bloomberg - Energy Week Ahead: Sold-Out Hearings for EPA Climate Plan - 7/27/14 - The nation gets its chance this week to blast or praise the Environmental Protection Agency's sweeping plan to cut climate-warming emissions by 2030. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-07-28/energy-week-ahead-sold-out-hearings-for-epa-climate-plan.html>

Farm Futures - Renewable Fuel Standard Rollback Still Appears Likely: NBB - 7/25/14 - The National Biodiesel Board on Thursday said talks between the White House and a group of Senate Democrats appears to indicate that a Renewable Fuel Standard rollback is still on the horizon as the U.S. EPA continues to delay the release of final 2014 volumes under the mandate. <http://farmfutures.com/story-renewable-fuel-standard-rollback-still-appears-likely-nbb-0-115530>

National Journal - EPA Chief Won't Ditch the Waters Rule, But She Is Digging for Answers - 7/27/14 - Gina McCarthy is reaching out to critics in the farm community and pledging to respond to their concerns. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/outside-influences/epa-chief-won-t-ditch-the-waters-rule-but-she-is-digging-for-answers-20140727>

Wall Street Journal - Report Says EPA Fails to Stem Methane Gas Emissions From Pipelines - 7/25/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is failing to control leaks of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from the nation's natural-gas pipelines, the agency's inspector general said Friday. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/report-says-epa-fails-to-control-methane-emissions-from-pipelines-1406305040>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Planet Ark - Neonic insecticides widespread in Iowa waters -study - 7/24/14 - A class of insecticides popular with corn and soybean farmers in the U.S. Midwest but feared as a factor in the decline of U.S. honey bee colonies and other crop pollinators, has been found to be widespread through rivers and streams in Iowa, according to a government study released on Thursday. <http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/71939>

Wall Street Journal

Report Says EPA Fails to Stem Methane Gas Emissions From Pipelines

Inspector General Says Voluntary Program to Spur Energy Companies to Address Leaks Is No Help

By AMY HARDER CONNECT

Updated July 25, 2014 6:56 p.m. ET

The Environmental Protection Agency is failing to control leaks of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from the nation's natural-gas pipelines, the agency's inspector general said Friday.

A report calls on the EPA to do more to control inadvertent emissions of methane, which has a more intense—though shorter—warming effect on the planet than carbon dioxide, the agency said. Natural gas consists almost entirely of methane.

About \$192 million of natural gas was lost in 2011 because of leaks in pipelines, known as distribution lines, that transport the fuel to end users, the inspector general said. That cost was borne by consumers, according to the report.

The inspector general said a voluntary EPA program to encourage energy companies to address methane emissions hasn't helped to reduce leaks.

The nation's plentiful supplies of natural gas are a central part of President Barack Obama's strategy to address climate change, since burning natural gas for energy produces 50% less in carbon emissions than burning coal. U.S. carbon emissions have fallen in recent years, in part due to natural gas supplanting coal in electricity generation.

But the methane component of natural gas has prompted criticism of wider natural-gas use from environmentalists and some Democratic lawmakers, who say that because of the widespread leaks, gas may not be much better than coal when it comes to global warming. There are no comprehensive federal data on how much methane is emitted when natural gas is first produced and when it is transported through pipelines.

The report recommends that the EPA coordinate better with the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and help ensure that companies have financial incentives to repair leaks and replace older pipelines. The EPA doesn't currently regulate methane emissions from distribution pipelines, and the agency's inspector general can't compel it to do so. The Obama administration is expected to decide later this year whether to write new EPA regulations targeting methane.

Distribution pipelines emit about a fifth of all the methane that seeps from the nation's natural-gas systems, including production fields where gas is pumped out of the ground, according to an April study by the EPA.

"We're making strides to collect data, and we've established a substantial understanding of the sector's technical, policy and economic issues in order to achieve real, tangible methane-emissions reductions," EPA spokeswoman Liz Purchia said.

The American Gas Association, which represents more than 200 natural-gas utilities that own and operate distribution pipelines, declined to comment on the report but said efforts already under way by its members have helped reduce methane emissions 22% since 1990.

"A concerted effort by natural-gas utilities to upgrade and modernize our nation's pipeline network to enhance safety has also contributed significantly to a declining trend in emissions from the natural-gas system," AGA spokesman Jake Rubin said.

—Cassandra Sweet contributed to this article.